

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed August 2, 2002 has been received and its contents carefully noted. Filed concurrently herewith is a *Request for One Month Extension of Time*, which extends the shortened statutory period for response to December 2, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that this response is being timely filed.

Applicants note with appreciation the consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on April 2, 2001.

Claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 were pending in the present application. Independent claims 1 and 2 have been amended. New claims 21-31 have been added to recite additional protection to which Applicant is entitled. Claims 1, 2, 15, 16 and 21-31 are now pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 2 and 21-24 are independent. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance.

The Official Action objects to Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B as lacking the designation of "Prior Art". As required by the Official Action, the Applicants have amended Figs. 3A, 3B, 4A and 4B. Submitted herewith is a *Request for Drawing Change Approval* and reconsideration is requested.

The present invention as recited, for example, in claim 1 is directed to a liquid crystal display device having a plurality of thin film transistors, at least one of said thin film transistors comprising an active layer over an insulating surface, a gate insulating film over said active layer, a gate electrode over said gate insulating film, and two wirings connected to said active layer, each of said wirings electrically connecting one of said plurality of thin film transistors, wherein edge portions of said active layer and a part of edge portion of said wirings are aligned, and wherein the gate insulating film is not in contact with the insulating surface.

The Official Action rejects claims 1, 2, 15 and 16 as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,981,974 to Makita, Ohtani et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,583,369 to Yamazaki et al. Please note that U.S. Patent Nos. 5,643,826 and 5,923,962 both to Ohtani et al. are of record in the present application. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner identify whether one or both of the Ohtani references is/are being applied in the rejection of the claims.


The Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against the independent claims of the present invention, as amended. Makita, Ohtani and Yamazaki do not teach or suggest all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently. Specifically, Makita, Ohtani and Yamazaki do not teach or suggest an active layer over an insulating surface, a gate insulating film over the active layer, where the gate insulating film is not in contact with the insulating surface. Since Makita, Ohtani and Yamazaki do not teach or suggest all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of independent claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) is in order and respectfully requested. Likewise, it is believed that dependent claims 15 and 16 are allowable in that they depend from what is believed to be allowable base claims 1 and 2, respectively.

New independent claim 21 recites that the gate insulating film is not in contact with the insulating surface. Further, new independent claims 22-24 recite the feature that a second insulating film is in contact with the insulating surface, where the second insulating film is formed over a first insulating film over the thin film transistor. New claims 25-31 depend from claims 21-24. The Applicants respectfully submit that new claims 21-31 are in condition for allowance.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Please amend claims 1 and 2 as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device having a plurality of thin film transistors, at least one of said thin film transistors comprising:

an active layer over [a substrate] an insulating surface;

a gate insulating film over said active layer;

a gate electrode over said gate insulating film; and

two wirings connected to said active layer, each of said wirings electrically connecting one of said plurality of thin film transistors,

wherein edge portions of said active layer and a part of edge portion of said wirings are aligned, and

wherein the gate insulating film is not in contact with the insulating surface.

2. (Amended) A liquid crystal display device having a plurality of thin film transistors, at least one of said thin film transistors comprising:

an active layer having a source and drain regions over [a substrate] an insulating surface;

a gate insulating film over said active layer;

a gate electrode over said gate insulating film; and

two wirings connected to said source and drain regions, each of said wirings electrically connecting one of said plurality of thin film transistors,

wherein edge portions of said active layer and a part of edge portion of said wirings are aligned, and

wherein the gate insulating film is not in contact with the insulating surface.